

Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan

Project Summary: The Missouri River Ecosystem Restoration Plan is being led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and in consultation with the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee, in accordance with the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. The purpose of the plan is to determine actions necessary to mitigate losses of aquatic and terrestrial habitat, aid in the recovery of federally listed species, and restore the ecosystem to prevent further declines among other native species. The plan focuses on Missouri River ecosystem resources and three focal species: interior least tern, piping plover, and pallid sturgeon. The planning effort includes 12 federal agencies (including Reclamation), eight states, and seven formally participating Indian tribes, with outreach to additional tribal communities. As part of the process, the USACE will produce an integrated environmental impact statement (EIS) that analyzes the environmental effects of restoration, recovery, and mitigation activities recommended in the plan.

Strategic Value: The goal of this planning effort is to develop and implement a single, comprehensive plan to guide implementation of Missouri River Basin mitigation, recovery, and restoration efforts by the USACE, which can also be used to guide activities undertaken by other federal and state agencies and tribes.

Benefits: The final product of the planning process will be a document that outlines a future vision for the river that restores the ecosystem, mitigates habitat loss, and recovers fish and wildlife, and identifies the tools needed for implementation. Over time, a restored river could also contribute to the revitalization of social, recreational, and business opportunities along the Missouri River, benefiting local citizens, local businesses, guides, outfitters, and recreational and commercial interests.

The collaborative plan development process gives tribes, federal and state agencies, and basin stakeholders an opportunity to:

- Actively engage in the design of a basin-wide plan for restoring the Missouri River
- Shape the desired future condition of the Missouri River natural resources
- Aid in alignment and prioritization of restoration and recovery projects, programs, and policies across governmental agencies and non-governmental institutions
- Identify criteria and opportunities for future restoration projects
- Encourage partnerships to develop and implement restoration efforts



The Missouri River from its “headwaters” at Three Forks MT to its confluence with the Mississippi River.